

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:340
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
PRESERVATION OF ALL INDIA RADIO ARCHIVES
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `what is the future for AIR's archive` appearing in `The Times of India` dated November 15. 2002;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed for preservation of these archives; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 340 for answer on 12.12.2002.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): Prasar Bharati has informed that the archival material is not being neglected. In fact, a separate unit under a Senior Officer is looking after the archival tapes. These tapes are kept in air-conditioned rooms. In addition, AIR has, inter-alia, taken the following steps for preservation of its archives: -

- (i) A Rs. 3 Crore project has been undertaken since November 2001 to digitalize the old recordings available on magnetic tapes;
 - (ii) The contents of the magnetic tapes in the archives are being transferred in electronic formats, which are resistant to wear and tear;
 - (iii) Special archival cupboards are being provided for storage of digitalized archival material, and a highly sophisticated refurbishing mechanism has been installed in Akashwani Bhawan with assistance of UNDP.
- 13000 hours of archival recordings have already been digitalized.